

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 NIC-01 CU-04

COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 PC-15 DRC-01 /216 W

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R 061225Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5663

INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USCINCSO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MONTEVIDEO 3568

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, UY, UR

SUBJ: ANTI-MARXIST MILITANCY

CINCSO FOR POLAD

REF: MVD 3524 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. THE DISSOLUTION ON DECEMBER 1 OF 14 MARXIST ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING THE URUGUAYAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCU), CAME AS NO SURPRISE. THERE HAS BEEN NO SIGNIFICANT PUBLIC OR OTHER REACTION. FURTHER GOVERNMENTAL ACTION TO CLEANSE MARXIST INFLUENCE FROM THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM, CIVIL SERVICE AND LABOR MOVEMENT IS EXPECTED. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT THE GOU'S PROGRAM FOR CURTAILING MARXIST INFLUENCE WILL INVOLVE A HARsher LINE TOWARD SOVIET BLOC EMBASSIES. DOMESTIC CONSEQUENCES ARE LESS CLEAR, WITH AT LEAST SOME DEMOCRATIC SECTORS HOPING THAT DISSOLUTIONS WILL EASE

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FUTURE RESUMPTION OF ELECTORAL PROCESSES AND MARXISTS HOPING THAT

THEY CAN CIRCUMVENT THE INCREASING RESTRICTIONS.
NEVERTHELESS THERE ARE MISGIVINGS THAT MILITANT
ANTI-MARXIST PROGRAM WILL FURTHER POLARIZE NATION AND
COMPLICATE ADMINISTRATION'S ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL GOALS.
END SUMMARY.

2. LOCAL SCENE REMAINS CALM WITH ALMOST NO PUBLIC REACTION TO
DECEMBER 1 CLOSING OF MARXIST ORGANIZATIONS. STUDENT
DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE BEEN BANNED AND MARXIST MEDIA SUPPRESSED.
BUT IN ANY EVENT WE SEE LITTLE INCLINATION OF STUDENTS OR
OTHER POTENTIALLY VOLATILE GROUPS TO TAKE TO THE STREETS
IN DEFENSE OF THE DISSOLVED ASSOCIATIONS. CALM IN PART
CONSEQUENCE THAT DISSOLUTION WAS LONG EXPECTED. MINISTER
OF INTERIOR BOLENTINI HAS TOLD PRESS THAT SOME 150 MARXISTS
HAVE BEEN ARRESTED IN POLICE AND MILITARY SWEEPS MADE IN
CONJUNCTION WITH DISSOLUTION, BUT APPARENTLY VERY FEW TOP
LEADERS HAVE BEEN DETAINED AS THEY HAD ALREADY GONE INTO
HIDING IN ANTICIPATION OF THE EVENT. CALM IS ALSO PROBABLY
RESULT OF THE GRADUALNESS OF GOU'S ANTI-MARXIST PROGRAM.
THE LEFT, UNABLE TO GENERATE PUBLIC SUPPORT AGAINST THE
CLOSING OF THE CONGRESS AND THE CNT LABOR CONFEDERATION
IN JUNE, THE INTERVENTION OF THE MARXIST-INFLUENCED
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY IN OCTOBER, OR THE HARASSMENTS OF LEFTIST
MEDIA, SENSES ITS OWN IMPOTENCE TO CONFRONT FURTHER
ANTI-LEFTIST ACTS. ONE EMBASSY LEFTIST CONTACT
EXPRESSED GRUDGING ADMIRATION FOR WHAT HE
TERMED "RIGHTIST SALAMI TACTICS." FINALLY, WITH
SUMMER MONTHS BEGINNING, A TRADITIONAL PERIOD OF LOW POLITICAL
ACTIVITY HERE AMONG BEACH-LOVING URUGUAYANS, OPPOSITION
POLITICAL SECTORS TELL US THAT IT IS TOO SOON TO AROUSE
PUBLIC SYMPATHY.

3. LOCAL PRESS AND EMBASSY SOURCES INDICATE THE DISSOLUTION
OF MARXIST ORGANIZATION PRELIMINARY TO FURTHER LEGAL ACTION
IN FORM OF NEW LAW TO BE APPROVED BY COUNCIL OF STATE, AIMED
AT ENDING MARXIST INFLUENCE IN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM, PUBLIC
EMPLOYMENT, AND UNIONS.

A. DISSOLUTION OF UNIVERSITY STUDENT ASSOCIATION (FEUU)
AUTOMATICALLY TERMINATES KEY INSTRUMENT OF MARXIST
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INFLUENCE IN THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY: UNDER THE
UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF CO-GOVERNMENT, LEFTIST STUDENTS
WERE INFLUENTIAL IN DETERMINING UNIVERSITY FACULTIES
AND COURSE CONTENT. WITH FEUU DISSOLVED, MINISTER
OF EDUCATION NARANCIO IS NEARER TO HIS EVENTUAL
GOAL OF LEGALLY ENDING THE UNIVERSITY'S AUTONOMOUS
STATUS.

B. ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS ARE ALSO EXPRESSING THEIR INTENT, THROUGH ADDITIONAL DECREES OR LEGISLATION, TO REMOVE MILITANT MARXISTS FROM POSITIONS IN THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AND IN PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT. LEGISLATION WILL APPARENTLY MAKE MILITANCY IN MARXIST ORGANIZATION INCOMPATIBLE WITH HOLDING OF PUBLIC OFFICE AND SUBJECT MARXIST LEADERS TO PROSECUTION FOR FUTURE ACTIONS.

C. SEVERAL HIGH LEVEL GOU SOURCES INDICATE THAT AN IMPORTANT COLLATERAL PURPOSE OF THE WEEKEND ACTIONS WAS TO PREVENT THE MARXISTS FROM CONTINUING THEIR DOMINATION OF THE LABOR MOVEMENT, AS APPEARED LIKELY FROM RECENT PROGRESS OF THE WORKER REGISTRATION CAMPAIGN PROVIDED FOR UNDER THE NEW LABOR CODE. SPECIFICALLY, GOU OFFICIALS WERE ALARMED OVER SUCCESS OF MARXISTS IN REGISTERING IN LATE NOVEMBER OVER 6,000 OF 14,000 BANK WORKERS, WHICH BY ONE ACT PUT THEM INTO THE LEAD OVER THE DEMOCRATIC UNIONS WHICH, IN MONTHS OF EFFORT, HAD SO FAR ONLY BEEN ABLE TO REGISTER ABOUT 5,000 WORKERS FROM A VARIETY OF SMALL UNIONS. THUS, THE DISSOLUTION ACTIONS WERE DESIGNED TO ELIMINATE COMMUNIST LEADERSHIP IN THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT. MINISTER BUGALLO ADVISED MISSION OFFICER ON DECEMBER 3 THAT GOU STRATEGY IS TO DO NOTHING ABOUT REGISTRATION CAMPAIGN UNTIL AFTER MARXIST PURGE HAS RUN ITS COURSE, AND CONTROVERSIAL YEAR-END SALARY INCREASE IS SOMEHOW MANAGED. AT SOME POINT NEXT YEAR, THEY WILL PRESUMABLY EITHER LEGALIZE REGISTRATIONS FROM DEMOCRATIC UNIONS OR OTHERWISE LET THE ELECTION PROVISIONS OF NEW LABOR CODE DIE.

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4. MOVES AGAINST MARXIST ORGANIZATIONS ARE ALSO SEEN AS FURTHER AFFECTING ALREADY STRAINED URUGUAYAN-SOVIET BLOC RELATIONS. URUGUAYAN-SOVIET CULTURAL INSTITUTE (ICUS) HAS BEEN CLOSED AS A RESULT OF DECEMBER 1 ACTION AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ARE PUBLICLY STATING THEIR INTENTION TO CURTAIL ALLEGED PROPAGANDA AND FINANCIAL LINKS BETWEEN BLOC EMBASSIES AND LOCAL MARXIST ORGANIZATIONS. THERE IS CONSIDERABLE LOCAL SPECULATION THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR NIKOLAI DEMIDOV, WHO IS PRESENTLY OUT OF THE COUNTRY ON NORMAL HOME LEAVE, WILL NOT SOON RETURN TO MONTEVIDEO. INFLUENTIAL CONSERVATIVE DAILY "LA MANANA" IS EDITORIALY CALLING FOR A REDUCTION OF THE SOVIET STAFF HERE COMMENSURATE WITH THE SIZE OF THE URUGUAYAN MISSION TO MOSCOW.

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 PC-15 NIC-01

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5. WHILE PUBLIC REACTION HAS BEEN MUTED, HIGHLY POLITICIZED URUGUAYANS HAVE BEEN FREE WITH THEIR OPINION ON LATEST ACTS. EMBASSY CONTACT IN THE NON-MARXIST SECTORS OF THE LEFTIST "FRENTE AMPLIO" DOUBT THAT GOU CAN IMPLEMENT FULL PROGRAM WITHOUT DOING IRREPARABLE HARM TO THE NATION'S ECONOMIC AND EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS. THEY CLAIM THAT NUMBER OF EDUCATORS AND PUBLIC SERVANTS SYMPATHETIC TO THE LEFT IS SIMPLY TOO GREAT TO ALLOW FOR AN EFFECTIVE PURGE, AND STUDENT AND WORKER ATTITUDES WILL NOT BE CHANGED BY GOVERNMENTAL DECREES. MOREOVER, PCU AND OTHER MARXIST LEADERS ARE UNLIKELY TO PASSIVELY RESIGN THEMSELVES TO INACTIVITY, BUT RATHER WILL SEEK TO REASSERT INFLUENCE THROUGH FRONTS. NON-MARXIST LEFTIST GROUPS, LIKE THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY ND ZELMAR MICHELINI'S LIST 9988 OFFSHOOT FROM THE COLORADO PARTY (WHICH WERE NOT AFFECTED BY DISSOLUTION DECREE) WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE A LEGAL BASIS TO CHANNEL LEFTIST ELECTORAL SUPPORT WHEN AND IF
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FUTURE ELECTIONS ARE HELD. SAME IS ALSO TRUE OF OPPOSITION BLANCO PARTY FACIONS WHICH HOPE TO SIMILARLY BENEFIT.

6. SOME DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION SECTORS ARE HOPEFUL THAT DISSOLUTION OF MARXIST PARTIES, BY REMVING MOST CONTROVERSIAL OF POLITICAL FACTIONS, WILL FACILITATE RETURN TO ELECTORAL PROCESS AND THE HOLDING OF THE SCHEDULED 1976 ELECTIONS. THEY ARE ALSO HOPEFUL THAT MODERATE SECTORS WITHIN THE EXECUTIE AND THE MILITARY WILL RETAIN CONTROL OVER AND AVOID EXCESSES IN THE ADMINISTRATION'S ANTI-MARXIST PROGRAM.

7. ON THE NEGATIVE SIDE, SOME MODERATE SECTORS FEAR THAT RADICAL RIGHTIST GROUPS, FAR FROM BEING SATISFIED BY LATEST DECREE, WILL BE EMBOLDENED BY IT TO PRESS FOR REMOVAL OF MODERATE INFLUENCES IN THE ADMINISTRATION. SOME WITHIN THE PRO-GOVERNMENT MODERATE SECTORS ARE ALSO CONCERNED THAT CLOSING OF LEGAL MARXIST GROUPS WILL FORCE MILITANTS INTO CLANDESTINE ACTIVITIES AND LESSEN INFLUENCE OF OLDER COMMUNIST LEADERS WHO HAVE LOYALLY FOLLOWED THE NON-VIOLENT MOSCOW LINE.
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